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FUR FARMING IN ALASKA, 1921.

(Extract from the Annual Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1921, pp. 32-33.)

The Bureau has supervision of the leasing of 10 islands off the coast of southern Alaska for fox-farming purposes. Originally 12 islands were transferred from the Department of Commerce, but two of these--Little Naked (Storey) and Carlson (Grafton) Islands, being situated within the boundaries of the Chugach National Forest--were, with the approval of the Secretary, turned over to the Forest Service. The 10 islands remaining under the jurisdiction of the Bureau are as follows:

Name of Island	Location	Name of Island	Location
Aghiyuk	One of the Semidi Islands..	Long.....	Chiniak Bay, E. of Kodiak Is.
Chirikof.....	Southwest of Kodiak Island.	Marmot...	East of Afognak Island.....
Chowiet.....	One of the Semidi Islands..	Middleton	Gulf of Alaska
Elizabeth.....	One of the Chugach Islands.	Pearl....	One of the Chugach Islands..
Little Koniugi	One of the Shumagin Group..	Simeonof.	One of the Shumagin Group...

All but the last named of these islands were leased during the year for fox-farming purposes--under the plan established by the Bureau of Fisheries prior to July 1, 1920--for periods of five years to the highest bidder, at about \$200 a year. Through a cooperative arrangement between the Biological Survey and the Forest Service, a uniform policy has been adopted to cover the use for fur-farming purposes of islands in the Aleutian Chain and along the southern and southeastern coast of Alaska. Under this plan the rental will be \$25 a year during the first three years of occupation, and at the expiration of this period the occupant of the island will be given the option of renewal, with a revision of the amount of rent to be paid according to the value of the location, but in no case to amount to enough to be burdensome to him. It is believed that the establishment of a uniform system of permits and rental rates covering the use of Alaskan islands for fur-farming purposes will greatly assist in developing the industry. The islands vary in area from 40 acres or less to several thousand acres. Blue foxes are the principal animals farmed on all these islands, although black-fox farming is also established on some of them. The blue foxes are practically running free on the islands, but most of the black or silver foxes are kept in pens. * * *

It is estimated that at the present time about 225 Alaskans are engaged in the fur-farming industry in the Territory, with a considerable investment of capital. The industry is rapidly growing and gives indication of becoming an important one. One drawback to its development is the fact that many islands along the southern coast lie outside the National Forests and the Aleutian Islands Bird Reservation and remain unoccupied because no legal authority exists by which they may be leased. It is hoped that legislation may be enacted shortly which will render these islands similarly available. This is particularly important in view of the fact that they are of little or no value for any other purpose.

